

Claims

1. An apparatus for sorting products such as fruits, the apparatus comprising,

- an endless conveyor, for instance a chain,

5 - conveying units for conveying the products, all one behind the other in a conveying direction and situated in a substantially horizontal plane, each connected with the conveyor, and each for conveying a single product, wherein each conveying unit is formed by

- at least two rolling elements with the axes perpendicular to the conveying direction, for instance diabolo-like rolling elements,

10 - a connecting element by which each rolling element is rotatably and vertically movably connected with the conveyor, and

- a carrier element arranged between the rolling elements, while at least in an inspection position each product is situated on two successive rolling elements and in a weighing position each product is situated on said carrier

15 element, and each carrier element is connected with moving means for moving the carrier element to and from the weighing position, and with discharge guide means for the movement to and from a discharge position for laterally discharging the product onto an output apparatus,

characterized in that

20 the discharge guide means only assume the discharge position when they are energized by energizing means, while discharge positions for lateral discharge on both sides of the conveyor can be assumed.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, **characterized in that**

25 the discharge guide means comprise a leaf spring,

wherein the leaf spring assumes a rest position in the case of conveyance and weighing, and has a deflection only upon movement to and from the discharge position.

5 **3. An apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that**
the leaf spring upon energization at discharge, from said rest position,
undergoes deflections lateral and perpendicular relative to the conveying
direction, whereby the respective carrier element tilts laterally accordingly.

10 **4. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized**
in that
the energizing means comprise raising guide means, arranged on at least one
of the sides of the conveyor, intended for guiding upwards and raising said
side of the carrier element and thereby tilting the carrier element, whereby a
15 product situated on such a carrier element is discharged on the side other
than said side.

5. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized
in that
20 the moving means comprise two hinging members.

6. An apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized
in that a carrier element and a connecting element each comprise a fitting
part so that both elements are fixed in the weighing position and in the
25 conveyance position.